

Claims

1. A method for inclusion of information regarding medical samples into a medical information manager system, the method comprising:

- 5           A) Initiating an electronic session on a medical information manager device associated with the medical information manager system regarding an interaction between a health care provider and a particular patient;
- 10          B) Use an input device associated with the medical information manager system to read into the medical information manager device the machine-readable attributes of a specific sample of a particular product to be provided to the patient;
- 15          C) Associate the machine readable attributes of the specific sample with a set of the particular patient's health records stored in the medical information manager system, the machine-readable attributes including a standard identification code for a particular product corresponding to the specific sample;
- 20          D) Use the machine-readable attributes of the specific sample to partially populate an electronic prescription form for the particular product matching the specific sample; and
- 25          E) Receive input through an input device connected to the medical information manager device from the health care provider to complete the partially populated prescription form.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the machine-readable attributes of a specific sample include a lot number for the specific sample and wherein a record of the provision of this specific sample is stored for use in a program for tracking of samples.

3. The method of claim 1 further wherein the machine-readable attributes of a specific sample are read by reading a communication media selected from the group consisting of barcodes, magnetic strips, radio frequency broadcast, infra red transmission, and characters suitable for optical character recognition.

4. The method of claim 1 further wherein the machine-readable attributes of a specific sample are read by reading a machine-readable media on the container which holds packages of the specific samples.

5       5. The method of claim 1 further wherein the machine-readable attributes of a specific sample are read by reading a machine-readable media on the exterior packaging of the specific sample.

10      6. The method of claim 1 further wherein the machine-readable attributes of a specific sample are read by reading a barcode on the particular product in the specific sample.

15      7. The method of claim 1 wherein the health care provider inputs by reader associated with the medical information manager system a code indicating that the particular patient is to receive a medical order for medical services selected from the group consisting of laboratory tests, radiology tests, consults, medical procedures, follow-up appointments, and exercise programs.